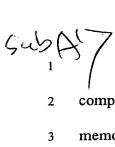
## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

A method for transparent file proxying, the method comprising the steps of: 2 coupling à plurality of computing devices to a local area network, at least one 3 of said plurality of computing devices including the ability to route communication 4 packets to said remaining plurality of computing devices, each of said plurality of 5 computing devices including a memory element containing a plurality of files; 6 coupling said at least one of said plurality of computing devices to a 7 communication network; 8 coupling a remote memory element to said communication network, said 9 remote memory element configured to maintain a file selected from said plurality of 10 files contained in the memory elements of each of said plurality of computing devices; 11 coupling a remote computing device to said remote memory element; 12 intercepting, in said remote memory element, a communication message from 13 said remote computing device; and 14 providing said selected file to said remote computing device when said remote 15 memory element intercepts said communication message from said remote computing 16 device if said communication message requests said selected file from one of said 17 plurality of computing devices connected to said local area network. 18



The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one of said plurality of

- computing devices periodically updates said selected file maintained in said remote
- 3 memory element.
- The method of claim 1, wherein said selected file is chosen to be
- 2 maintained in said remote memory element based upon any of a plurality of policies.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said plurality of policies are chosen
- 2 from the group consisting of user policies, group policies and corporate policies.
- The method of claim 1, wherein said remote memory element updates
- 2 said selected file and causes a file located in said plurality of files and corresponding
- 3 to said selected file to be updated.

A system for transparent file proxying, comprising:

- a local network to which is coupled a plurality of computing devices, at least
- one of said plurality of computing devices including the ability to route
- 4 communication packets to said remaining plurality of computing devices, each of said
- 5 plurality of computing devices including a memory element containing a plurality of
- 6 files;
- a communication network coupled to said at least one of said plurality of
- 8 computing devices;
- a remote memory element coupled to said communication network and
- configured to maintain a selected file selected from said plurality of files contained in
- the memory elements of each of said plurality of computing devices;

Subf

a remote computing device connected to said remote memory element, said remote memory element configured to intercept communication messages from said remote computing device; and

wherein said remote memory element is configured to provide said selected file to said remote computing device when said remote memory element intercepts a communication message from said remote computing device, said communication message requesting said selected file from one of said plurality of computing devices connected to said local network.

- 7. The system of claim 6, wherein said at least one of said plurality of computing devices periodically updates said selected file maintained in said remote memory element.
- 8. The system of claim 6, wherein said selected file is chosen to be maintained in said remote memory element based upon any of a plurality of policies.
- 9. The system of claim 8, wherein said plurality of policies are chosen from the group consisting of user policies, group policies and corporate policies.
- 10. The system of claim 6, wherein said remote memory element updates said selected file and causes a file located in said plurality of files and corresponding to said selected file to be updated.
- 1 11. A computer readable medium having a program for transparent file proxying, 2 the program comprising logic configured to perform the steps of:

1

2



Cub	χ (	HP Docket No. 10992199
	$\frac{1}{3}$	coupling a plurality of computing devices to a local area network, at least one
	4	of said plurality of computing devices including the ability to route communication
	5	packets to said remaining plurality of computing devices, each of said plurality of
	6	computing devices including a memory element containing a plurality of files;
	7	coupling said at least one of said plurality of computing devices to a
	8	communication network;
	9	coupling a remote memory element to said communication network said
	10	remote memory element configured to maintain a file selected from said plurality of
	11	files contained in the memory elements of each of said plurality of computing devices;
	12	coupling a remote computing device to said remote memory element;
	13	intercepting, in said remote memory element, a communication messages from
	14	said remote computing device; and
	15	providing said selected file to said remote computing device when said remote
	16	memory element intercepts a communication message from said remote computing
	17	device, said communication message requesting said selected file from one of said
	18	plurality of computing devices connected to said local area network.

- The program of claim 11, wherein said at least one of said plurality of 12. 1 computing devices periodically updates said selected file maintained in said remote 2 memory element. 3
  - The program of claim 11, wherein said selected file is chosen to be 13. maintained in said remote memory element based upon any of a plurality of policies.

SubAJ7

- 14.\ The program of claim 13, wherein said plurality of policies are chosen
- 2 from the group consisting of user policies, group policies and corporate policies.
- 15. The program of claim 11, wherein said remote memory element
- 2 updates said selected file and causes a file located in said plurality of files and
- 3 corresponding to said selected file to be updated.

<del>1</del>